

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKARTA 03108 150456Z

12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 150400Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7054

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3108

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID ID

SUBJECT: PL-480

REFS: A. STATE 54778 B. SECTO 481

1. REPORTS OF USG DECISION ON PL-480 FOR INDONESIA HAVE FILTERED TO JAKARTA THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS. PHONE CALL TO AID MISSION BROUGHT FIRST WORD NEARLY TWO WEEKS AGO. INDONESIAN EMBASSY APPARENTLY INFORMED EARLY IN MARCHAND REPORTED INFORMATION TO GOI. REPORTEDLY INFORMATION ALSOC CONVEYED BY VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER TO INDONESIAN VICE PRESIDENT ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HAD NO DETAILED REPORT OF THIS CONVERSATION. EMBASSY, THROUGH REFTEL A, WAS LAST TO BE OFFICIALLY INFORMED. GOI HAD ALREADY GONE BACK TO WASHINGTON RAISING QUESTION ABOUT TOBACCO CONTEBT BEFORE WE HAD NAY AUTHORITY DISCUSS QUESTION WITH GOI.

2. WHILE APPRECIATING COMPLEXITIES OF PL-480 PROCESS, I REGRET, IN VIEW SECRETARY'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT (REFTEL B) THAT WE WERE NOT GIVEN EARLY OPPORTUNITY OFFICIALLY TO EXPLAIN TO FOEIGN MINISTRY REASONS FOR CHANGE IN COMMODITY, TO GIVE INITIAL INFORMATION ON MAGNITUDE, AND TO PLACE THIS IN CONTEXT OUR GENERAL TRANSITION STRATEGY.

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3. IN VIEW HISTORY THIS QUESTION, I CALLED ON ACTING
FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR MARCH 15, REVIEWED HISTORY OF
QUESTION, EXPLAINED REASONS FOR CHANGE FROM RICE TO
COTTON AND TOBACCO AND MENTIONED THAT WE WOULD SHORTLY
RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS.

4. GIVEN ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL NATURE OF THIS PROGRAM
AND POSSIBILITY OF SEVERAL STICKING POINTS IN NEGOTIATIONS,
I INTEND FOLLOW PROCESS CLOSELY. I HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN
KEEP SPECIAL CHARACTER THIS PROGRAM IN MIND BOTH IN
INSURING THAT I AM INFORMED IN TIMELY MANNER OF FURTHER
DEVELOPMENTS AND PROBLEMS AT WASHINGTON END AND IN
SUPPORTING MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN U.S. POSITION AS
PROBLEMS MAY ARISE.

5. WE WILL BE SENDING EARLY NEXT WEEK EMBASSY'S
ESTIMATE OF LIKELY INDONESIAN REACTION TO VARIOUS
ELEMENTS IN PACKAGE.

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